

A Sermon Preached by Pastor Justin Johnson
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Bellingham, WA 98225
Pentecost Sunday May 23, 2010
Text: Acts 2:1-21

Please watch the video "It's Pentecost" if you are able to. Here is the link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmweXyEoBw>

In this video, the part that caught my attention was the part that the Holy Spirit creates problems.

As I thought about it, it is so true. Any time the spirit moves for a new thing to be done, there is always a hang-up. Money, know-how, time, us letting go of our false gods, just the idea of change and something being different seems to make people anxious. It was that way in the book of Acts. Think of when Peter had the vision that there was nothing unclean, the message that came in the dream that all people including the Gentiles were to be welcomed as children of God. That they too could be included in the salvation of God.

I have often looked at this story of Pentecost and thought, "Oh, the good old days, how lucky they were to have this happen to them." But it wasn't just sunshine and roses for these followers of Jesus, they faced jail time, persecutions, arguments among themselves. And so forth.

And the question I have for you today, take a moment to share with your neighbor, where do you see the Holy Spirit at work today creating problems?

And now, like the video proclaimed, we have a story to tell and that is the story of God's love for you and for me and for the world, a love that we know deeply in the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's only son. For Jesus brings to us forgiveness of sins, resurrection from the dead, and hope for the future. For God is at work in this world and we have a story to tell. A story that is true and a story that changes lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.